REFERENCE TO THE NEED TO EXTEND THE TERM OF THE COMMISSION OF INQUIRY ON BHOPAL GAS TRAGEDY

श्री चतुरानन मिश्र (बिहार) : उपसभापति महोदया, एक अत्यन्त ही निन्दनीय घटना की तरफ मैं सरकार का ध्यान आकर्षित करना चाहता हूं । भोपाल की भयंकर दुर्घटना की जांच के लिए एक जांच कमीशन बैठाया गया । जांच कमीशन की लाइफ आज खत्म हो रही है । सरकार ने उसकी लाईफ एक्सटेंड नहीं की । इसका मतलब है कि जांच कमीशन ने जो कुछ भी जांच की वह समाप्त हो गई । कुछ दिन पहले इस सदन में यह आशंका प्रकट की गई थी कि सरकार बहुराष्ट्रीय कम्पनियों के दबाव में आकर ऐसी कार्यवाही करने जा रही है । और आज यह बिल्कुल स्पष्ट हो गया कि सरकार ने अभी तक इसकी लाइफ एक्सटेंड नहीं की । इस सदन में भोपाल की दुर्घटना पर शोक व्यक्त किया गया था । इस साल भी उसके एक साल होने पर शोक प्रकट किया गया था और अब इस सारी जांच की कार्यवाही खत्म की जा रही है । मुझे यह सूचना मिली है कि हाई टैक्नोलाजी मंगाने के नाम पर बहुराष्ट्रीय कम्पनियों से जो मोल तोल किया जा रहा है उन्होंने भारत सरकार से साफ कहा है कि इस तरह की जांच होती रहेंगी तो हम लोग भारत में पूंजी नहीं लगायेंगे और उसी के दबाव में आकर सरकार ऐसा कर रही है । मैं चेयर से अनुरोध करता हूं कि इस बारे में हस्तक्षेप करें और शासक पार्टी के लोगों से भी कहूंगा । कल ही प्रधान मंत्री ने सदन को कहा था कि सातवीं योजना पर विचार करते समय कि हम किसी दबाव में नहीं आयगे, बहुराष्ट्रीय कम्पनियों के दबाव में नहीं आयेंगे, । अभी हो क्या रहा है । बहुराष्ट्रीय कम्पनियों के दबाव में आकर विश्व की सबसे बड़ी औद्योगिक दुर्घटना की जांच समाप्त की जा रही है। यह अत्यन्त लज्जाजनक है । मेरा सरकार से यही अनुरोध है कि इसकी लाइफ को एक्सटेंड किया जाय ताकि पूरी जांच ठीक से हो सके ।

MOTION FOR CONSIDERATION OF THE SEVENTH FIVE YEAR PLAN —Contd.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI AJIT PANJA): Madam Deputy Chairman, while replying to the various points raised by the honourable Members, I would like to mention that 20 honourable Members participated in the discussions and debated over the Seventh Five Year Plan for eight hours. It has been very useful in respect of some points mentioned by some of the honourable Members. We have taken note of those points and we shall certainly discuss those points with the Advisers concerned.

Madam, the very first speaker started first with a comparison with the Soviet Union of the Indian Plan-making. As you know, Madam, as far as the USSR is concerned, it is a structured process and in that structured process, it is worked out. The complaint of the honourable Member was that there were discussions regarding the First Soviet Plan and there were various changes made after taking the views of the various people who discussed this Plan. He also complained that so far as the Seventh Plan document was concerned, it was stamped "Secret" and therefore, it was a sort of *fait accompli*, and he asked what was the use of making speeches here on this Plan. In fact Madam, so far as the Seventh Plan is concerned, certain dates would be very relevant.

So far as the Seventh Plan is concerned, first, and Approach Papers, prepared and on that Approach Paper, a full Planning Commission meeting was held and the dates are very relevant. It was held on the 4th June, 1984. Thereafter it was considered by the Cabinet on the 20th June, 1984 and, again, it was considered by the Consultative Committee of the Members of Parliament. This was done on the

7th July, 1984. Then it came up before the National Development Council in July, 1984. All the members of the National Development Council and those who were present there discussed this for two days. Various points were taken up for discussion on the Approach Paper. Thereafter, this was laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha, I mean, the Approach Paper, on the 30th July, 1984 and on the Table of the Rajya Sabha on the 31st July, 1984. The Approach to the Plan was discussed for two days as we are discussing the Plan now. It was discussed for two days in the Rajya Sabha and that was on the 13th and 17th of August, 1984. Thereafter, Madam the Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission discussed it threadbare, in detail, with the Chief Ministers of the States. Their views were ascertained and on almost all the points a consensus was reached. Even then it was not finalised. Thereafter, again, Madam, public opinion, expert veiws, views expressed by various academicians were ascertained for full one year. The Approach Paper was not stamped "Secret". The Approach Paper gave the broad outlines and the background history of the Sixth Plan and the basis and the foundation on which the Seventh Plan would be launched. Then again, after ascertaining the views of the experts, it was put before the National Development Council on the 8th and 9th of November. Again, Madam, the members deliberated for two days, for long hours.

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE (West Bengal): When was the Draft circulated to the Chief Ministers?

SHRI AJIT PANJA: This was on the 5th and 6th. Then it was about fifteen days before and this time it was more than that, at least 17 days before, and these are all recorded. In fact, the slight objection raised by the Chief Minister of West Bengal was not so much pressed as the learned honourable Member would know. It was not so much pressed. Then again, after that, this is being discussed here and will be discussed in the Lok Sabha also. Therefore, the complaint that in the Soviet Union the Plan is being discussed and not here is not correct.

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE: What about the Draft?

SHRI AJIT PANJA: The approach is the basis, and it is considered and discussed. The draft was prepared after the approach paper. After it was done the N.D.C. discussed for two days. Again here 20 Members participated, and also certainly gave very valuable points.

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE: Just one point.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please don't interrupt.

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE: The Soviet Union do not call that approach. They publish what is called the guidelines for the Plan. They circulate that much earlier and also the draft is circulated. The difference is in terminology, and nothing else.

SHRI AJIT PANJA: I am very sorry. The Member is not right. The Communist Pary formulates it by Resolution and then it is placed before the Council of Ministers. Then order and limit of the plan is discussed. It is then placed before the Supreme Soviet. So far as the States are concerned it is made on a GOSPLAN basis where three main departments are concerned. The first is the national one. second is departmental one and the third is the production sector, and after that the 'structure procedure is that it again comes up and receives the approval of the Supreme Soviet. And now that I am saying that the hon. Member need not apprehend that we are not exchanging knowledge. We are taking knowledge wherever it is necessary. In fact, Madam, so far as the Soviet planning experts are concerned and our experts, an agreement was entered into long ago. The

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Member probably does not know that nine meetings took place since 1973 between the Soviet experts and Indian experts for exchange of knowledge of the planning process—not of any other things but only of the planning process. In that planning process we exchange our knowledge regarding the structure of the plan, the funding of the plan and the manner in which it is to be implemented. In fact, only the other month the ninth meeting took place in Delhi. That was on 30th, started on the 30th October, 1985 and ended on the 6th November, 1985. They are coming over here and we are also going there. There is some thing very good in Indian planning and the system of approach and they have also certain very good features. Our planners are exchanging knowledge among themselves and mutually we are taking this into consideration. Therefore, the process adopted by us as would be seen, is more decentralised. We take more public opinion and the cross-section not only of the political people, elected representatives but also various cross-section of the people. Not only is it discussed in the NDC but even across the table. The Deputy Chairman talks to each of the Chief Ministers and the Administrators and discussess with them in detail. In fact, Madam, in the National Development Council there was a general consensus not only on the basic approach but also on the objects and also the manner of implementation. That is the way the plan is to be given effect to.

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE: Why is it kept secret and confidential?

SHRI AJIT PANJA: Because after it has been discussed thoroughly, it has received some sanctity, you cannot keep it open all the time. And after it is marked secret it was sent to the Chief Ministers so that they can look into it whether the basic features have been taken into consideration, for full one year discussion. It must reach some sort of a status paper by which it can come over here and be discussed.

Now, the second grievance of the hon. Member was regarding the public sector investment which has been effectively dealt with by our leader, the Prime Minister. Therefore, I need not dwell on that issue. The statistics and other things should be found in the Plan document. And knowing that the Member goes into details of the Plan document, he must have seen that it is neither unrealistic, nor it is bombastic nor it is approached in a manner that has no basis. The third point mentioned by the hon. Members is that these figures are all wrong and if you say that the foundation is on the Sixth Plan and, therefore, the foundation is on the Sixth Plan, then the targets have not been achieved in the Sixth Plan and, therefore, the foundation is not to be relied upon. There the hon. Members must have noticed certain figures. But they wanted to highlight some other points. I give some of the figures. In foodgrains, the target was 49—154 million tonnes. We have achieved 151 million tonnes. In that, the wheat target was 44 million tonnes and we have achieved 45.6 million tonnes. In coarse cereals, the target was 29.2 million tonnes and the achievement was 34 million tonnes. Likewise in the industry sector targets have been achieved in the case of aluminium, lead, zinc, thermo-plastics, petro-chemicals intermediaries, cement, electrical equipment and some other durables.

SHRI NIRMAL CHATERJEE: What is our foodgrain production really?

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: There is not going to be any dialogue. Mr. Minister, please keep on speaking.

SHRI AJIT PANJA: The hon. Members gave wrong figures. I did not stand up and object.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You keep standing and speak what you like.

SHRI AJIT PANJA: The remarkable achievement of target is in the sector of machine tools, production of automobiles, two wheelers and cars and some other electronics and communication equipment.

Now take life expectancy at birth. These are the indicators to show whether we are advancing or not. Life expectency at birth was 27.4 years in the 1941-51 decade. We have achieved 54.7 years in 1985-86. Infant mortality per thousand live births was 146 during the 50s. We have reduced it to 110 in 1981-82. In the case of primary health centres, the target in the Sixth Plan was 1600 and we have established 3700 primary health centres. In the Sixth Plan, the target for the community health centres was 174 units and we have achieved 400 units. Employment portion has already been dealt with by the hon. Prime Minister. We have started the Seventh Plan on that basis and the overall growth of 5 per cent has been achieved. At this stage, I find it relevant to quote our hon. Prime Minister's speech before the National Development Council meeting:

> "We must now build on those foundations. We must maintain the momentum of growth. We must take the modernisation process forward. We must be able to deal with the world on equal terms. No process of development can be socially meaningful or even viable if it fails to lighten the burden of poverty. We must intensify our direct attack on poverty. We must provide productive employment to the mass of our people. Development must be accompanied by equity and social justice by removal of social barriers that oppress the weak. This is the essence of our concept of socialism."

So far as the other points raised by other hon. Members are concerned, I find that our hon. friend from Tamil Nadu expressed despair that Tamil Nadu is not being looked after.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Both the Members from Tamil Nadu can listen to the Minister.

SHRI AJIT PANJA: As I said, the hon. Member felt that Tamil Nadu was not being looked after properly and that it was neglected. One grievance was that not a single district has been declared as backward. It is not possible to declare, Madam, because a district classified as 'A' class backward is on the basis of a no-industry district. And Tamil Nadu and the people of Tamil Nadu have worked so well that there is one industry in each of the districts of Tamil Nadu....

SHRI R. MOHANARANGAM (Tamil Nadu): I am sorry to interrupt. When we have raised a point here two months back whether the Government would come forward to take into consideration the taluk-wise backwardness, the promise made by the hon. Minister for Industries was that they would definitely consider taluk-wise backwardness. That is what I pointed out yesterday.

SHRI AJIT PANJA: My hon. friend must have patience to hear me. I have heard him thoroughly. Now on that, 'A' Class cannot be given because all the districts have either medium or large scale industries in Tamil Nadu. But a portion of Tamil Nadu is of course even of 'B' and 'C' category. Now so far as the Central sector alone is concerned. I can name a few the Madras Fertilizers, the Madras Refineries, the Hindustan Photo-films, the high pressure Boilers and Accessories plant, a number of textile mills of the NTC, cement plants of the Cement Corporation of

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India, the Salem Plant, the refractories factory etc. In the Seventh Plan for modernisation and upgradation of technology of the already existing units, the Central investment is Rs. 517 crores in the lignite sector.

SHRI R. MOHANARANGAM: What is the total, Sir? Out of Rs. 90,000 crores, you are giving only Rs. 500 crores.

SHRI ALADI ARUNA *alias* V. ARUNACHALAM (Tamil Nadu): Out of Rs. 90,000 crores, you are going to allot only Rs. 500 crores. It is a shame. Are you not ashamed of it?

SHRI R. MOHANARANGAM: I do not want to use those harsh words. Sir, you have taken an oath that the entire area of this country will be considered equally without any disparity. It is all right that you give only Rs. 500 crores? (*Interruptions*)

SHRI AJIT PANJA: If the hon. Members think that the people of India should not know what is actually being done, it is the whole of India's planning being discussed. (*Interruptions*) I am quoting the figures. All India must know. It is Rs. 781 crores in power sector under Neyveli Lignite at the end of the 6th Plan. It is Rs. 229 crores for Madras Atomic Power Plant. (*Interruptions*) It is Rs. 700 crores for the lignite sector. It is Rs. 800 crores for the power sector of Neyveli Lignite Corporation. It is Rs. 39 crores for the Madras Atomic Power Plant. Therefore, these are the figures which the hon. Member may not say in his own address, but I must say it. I am not saying that everything has been done. We are conscious about the development of each of the districts and each of the States and the Union Territories. We are conscious of the overall constraints to reach as much as possible and not to consider on any political or any other bias. The Planning Commission, Madam, is an independent advisory body. Even the Members who advise the Deputy Chairman, advise us. And the entire structure therein is made in such a way that it is wholly independent and they can even say 'no' to any....

SHRI ALADI ARUNA *alias* V. ARUNACHALAM: It is absolutely under your control. How can you say that?

SHRI AJIT PANJA: Most certainly not. The hon. Member does not know that it is an independent advisory body formed by a Resolution... (*Interruptions*) Then. Madam. there was some grievance that....

SHRI R. MOHANARANGAM: I am very sorry. I have asked a very specific question. How much have you spent so far since 1967? Because it is ruled by a non-Congress Government, you have not spent anything since 1967 as the Central investment. That is what I say. I want to know specifically as to how much did you spend for Tamil Nadu through the Central investment from 1967 to 1985.

SHRI AJIT PANJA: You may put a question and I will answer.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: He will send you the answer.

SHRI AJIT PANJA: There was a question raised by some Members about subsidy. When I made a statement that we shall control the grant of subsidy, there may not be any apprehensions so far as subsidy covering dry land farming is concerned. That will continue. Regarding supply of mini-kits and also high-yielding variety of seeds, there may not be any apprenhension in the minds of the farmers and the people engaged in dry land farming. Those subsidies would continue and there should not be any apprehension about that. In fact, dry land farming has received the main thrust and that is why in the Seventh Plan, Rs. 120 crores have been provided for only for the dry land from the

Central investment and equal amount is expected from State plan investment.

So far as backward areas are concerned, various statements have been made whether proper emphasis is being laid. It is being laid and the hon. Members must have seen at page 286 of Volume-I of the Plan document. Detailed discussions have been made regarding the hilly areas, regarding western ghats, regarding tribal areas, with particular reference to North-Eastern States, that is, the formation of the North-Eastern Council.

Some points were raised regarding horticulture. We have not lost sight of the development of horticulure. In fact, to quote certain figures, Sixth Plan allocation was Rs. 10.21 crores. In the seventh Plan, for horticulture, the allocation is 25 crores from the Centre in addition to provision from the State plan under sub-head called 'Crop facilities'.

Mr. Mishra pointed out that there is an apprehension that there may be a sinkage in the capacity of the railway system. There need not be any such apprehension because for the Railways you will find that we have provided for 76 million tonnes of additional capacity and this being a connecting link not only for the passengers but also for movement of essential goods, proper attention has been paid. Modern technology is also thought of and the Railway Ministry is at it giving it the highest priority.

Another point raised was regarding khadi. When modern technology and high technology is being emphasised upon, naturally some apprehension may be made as to what we are going to do about khadi In fact, one hon. Member rightly asked about *charkha*. Answering to his query about *charkha*, we find that khadi production in the Seventh Plan is increasing from 127.82 million sq. metres to 180 million sq. metres. Then employment also automatically increases from 14.58 lakh to 20 lakh, both full-time and part-time. After modernisation of *charkha* and after a new type is found out—because hi-tech not only enters various sectors it also enters *charkha*— the production increases as rightly pointed out by our hon. Prime Minister yesterday that khadi sector is being slightly modernised in such a manner that the main concept is kept but gradually they go to small-scale sector and then to medium scale sector so that vacant position can be taken up by new entrepreneurs coming in with new devices developed by them. Therefore, so far as khadi and village Industries Commission is concerned, it is expected to increase from Rs. 758.56 crores to 1700 crores during the Seventh Plan...I am sorry,...to Rs. 900 crores not Rs. 1700 crores) during the Seventh Plan and employment will increase from 22.41 lakhs to 30 lakhs. In the case of public sector dealing with khadi and village industries, it will increase from Rs. 547.09 crores to Rs. 984.25 crores. A similar apprehension was raised by hon. Members in regard to handlooms. I will not give the figures. They are given in the document. But certainly, some portions of specified handloom materials are being regulated and protected so that they may not face the onslaught of the big industries or the other textile industries.

Now, so far as the basic things are concerned, the approach, as I said in the beginning before this House, is that—this is the call given by our beloved leader late Prime Minister Indiraji when the approach paper was being discussed—food, work and productivity. On this basis, we have to work out the modalities and details. With this vision of food, work and productivity, our Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi has emphasised speed and efficiency. Madam, it has been very rightly pointed out

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by hon. Members that this should be done, decision-making should be done in such a manner that it percolates down, not only from the top to the bottom, but planning is also done at the grassroot level, at the level of the block development officer who is the kingpin. This should be done in such a manner that it comes to us and the planning is done in the manner of decentralised process. We have been working out on this. In the Seventh Plan, in fact, there is a specific direction and emphasis on this.

Now, another point which has been raised by hon. Members is in regard to workers' participation. Madam, we are very much alive to this issue and I have already said before this House and also in the Lok Sabha, that workers' participation has been divided into three main sectors, three main aspects, three main stages. First is at the shop floor level, how can there be workers participation, participation between the management and the workers. Second is at the plant level and the third is at the Board level. So far, 72 Central sector industries have already implemented this in regard to the grassroot levels, that is, at the shop floor level and the plant level. But so far as the Board level is concerned, it is being gradually implemented. I am sure, when this policy decision has been taken, it will really percolate down.

Therefore, Madam, you will find that all the points which have raised by hon. Members have already been taken in. A point was raised by way of an amendment that this should be again discussed and again made. I think, it is not necessary. As I said, all the points have been highlighted and emphasised. The Plan does not give the details. It gives the main philosophy how it should be done and in what manner India is going to develop. Therefore, I seek the cooperation not only of the Members present here but also of the people who elected them, for whom the planning is done. After this has been discussed here, it has to percolate down, up to the kingpin, the block development officer. He will hold of a copy and start working on this. Of course, it is not a structured process like other countries. It has got enough elbow room for the purpose of modulation, for the purpose of adjustment by all sectors where this may meet with resistance. It is a vast country. Madam, there are more than 5,000 blocks in our country and we have to approach the people in these different blocks, for whom planning has been done. Madam, I am asking for cooperation of all. (*Interruptions*). So far as land reforms are concerned, you must have seen the details given in the Plan document. I have already taken a lot of time. Therefore, before ending I cannot but repeat the speech given by our Prime inister, the end paragraph, before the National Development Council, and I quote:

> "The path of independent development is arduous. We have preserved in it overcoming difficulties and pressures. Let us all pledge ourselves to the implementation of this Plan. The people of India have abiding faith in the planning process. This Plan is an expression of their collective aspirations. Let us entrust it to their care."

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I now put the amendment of Shri Satya Prakash Malaviya to vote. The question is:

> "That at the end of the Motion the following be added, namely:—
>
> 'and having considered the same, this House is of the opinion that the Plan is based on capitalist way of development and is therefore incapable of solving any of the basic problems of the country like poverty, unemployment, under-employment, price-rise, inequality, illiteracy and providing profitable prices to farmers for their produce,

and therefore directs the Government:

(a) to reframe the Seventh Plan totally; and

(b) to constitute a people's Planning Committee including leaders of opposition parties therein.' "

The motion was negatived.

I. THE FUTWAH-ISLAMPUR LIGHT RAILWAY LINE (NATIONALISATION) BILL, 1985.

II. THE APPROPRIATION (RAILWAYS) NO. 5 BILL, 1985.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: We will take up both the Bills together. I have already requested most of the participants in this Bill that we are short of time and so, please abide by the time allotted to your respective parties. I need your cooperation.

SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA (Uttar Pradesh): Please do not ring the bell again and again.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I can ring the bell only once in your case because your party has been given only three minutes. So, if I ring the bell for three times, your all the time will be over. Two hours are allotted for this.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA):

Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill to provide for the acquisition, in the public interest, of the undertakings of the Futwah-Islampur Light Railway Company Limited in relation to the Futwah-Islampur Railway Line and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, as passed by the Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration."

Sir, the House is aware that in the past assurances have been given that a Bill for nationalisation of Futwah-Islampur Light Railway will be brought before the Parliament. Accordingly, this Bill was introduced in the Lok Sabha on 21-11-1985 and the Bill has been passed by the Lok Sabha. Futwah-Islampur Light Railway is owned by the Futwah-Islampur Light Railway Company Limited. The track and rolling stock of this line are in a dilapidated condition. Running of trains on this line is, therefore, hazardous from the safety point of view.

Moreover, the Futwah-Islampur Light Railway Company has been suffering heavy working losses. The Government is required to ensure an interest of 3.5 per cent on the paid-up share capital of the Company besides meeting the working losses. The subsidy paid during 1983-84 alone amounted to Rs. 14.76 lakhs. The assets of the Company are proposed to be taken over through the present legislation by payment of an amount of Rs. 19.29 lakhs as compensation. It is proposed that, after nationalisation, all the eligible employees of the Light Railway be absorbed against vacancies on the Indian Railways. Madam, with these words, I would commend the Bill for consideration of the House.

Madam, I also move:

"That the Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of the financial year 1985-86 for the purpose of Railways, as passed by the Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration."

Madam, as far as this Bill is concerned, I will cover all the points at the end of the debate in my reply.

The questions were proposed.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Shri Sukomal Sen.